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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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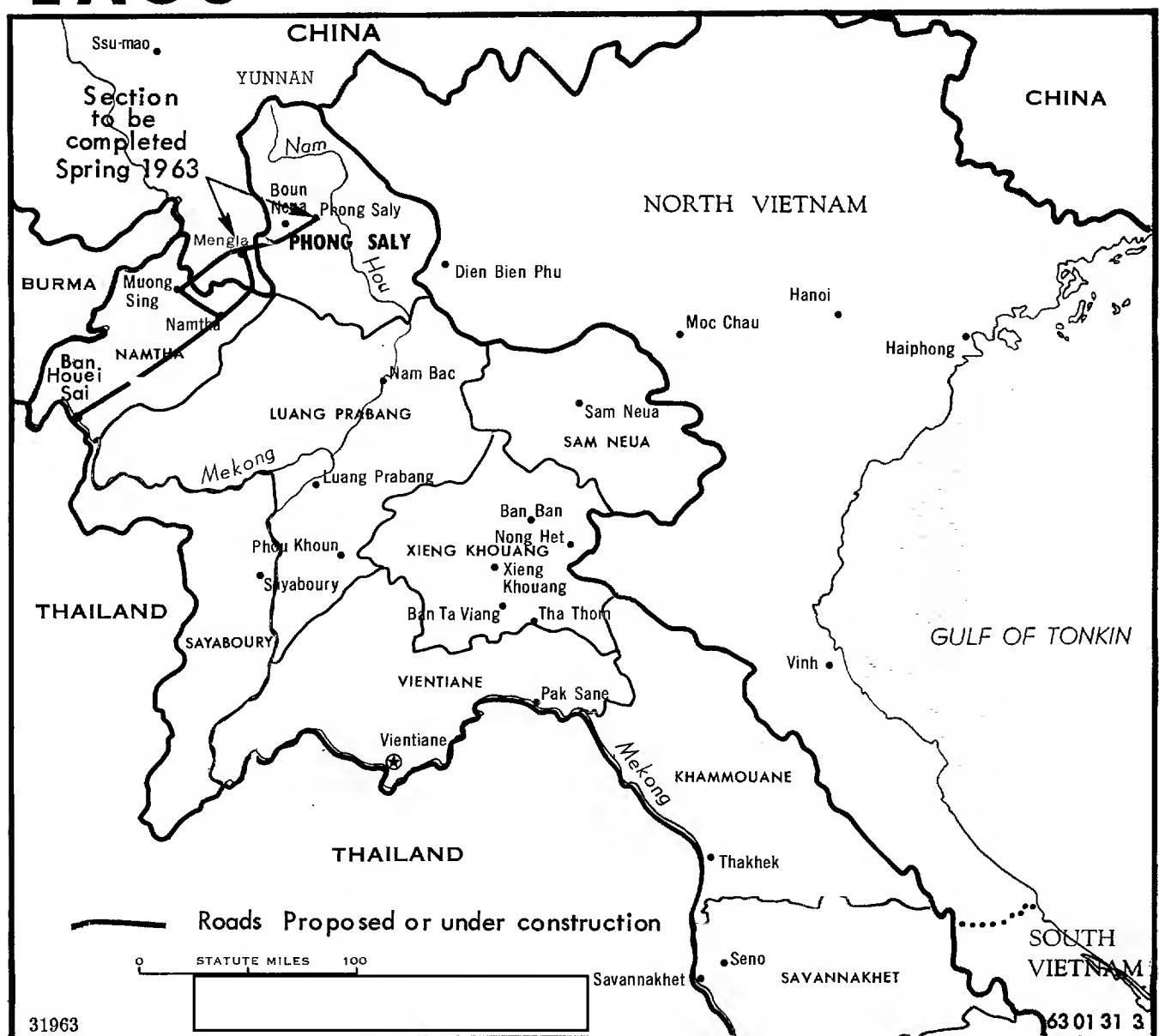
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# LAOS



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[Redacted]  
Laos: (There are reports that the Chinese Communists may be expanding their road-building activity in northwestern Laos.)

(An all-weather road between Mengla in southern China and Phong Saly town is almost complete. Lao Army officers have stated that a road net--authorized by Souvanna Phouma and to be built by the Chinese--will eventually connect Phong Saly with Muong Sing, Nam Tha, and perhaps even Ban Houei Sai, via Mengla. Such a net would tie northern Laos--now almost inaccessible by road from central Laos--to China's Yunnan Province.)

[Redacted]  
(Souvanna claims the road-construction projects are Phoumi's business, and, according to the US Embassy in Vientiane, he "apparently could not care less." Phoumi seems to believe that road construction will continue regardless of any objection he might make, and that the best course is to bring the project out in the open with a regular agreement.)

(Although there have been reports of increased Chinese Communist support activity in northern Laos, there has been no confirmation that road construction is in fact under way on routes other than the one from Mengla to Phong Saly.) [Redacted]

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NOTES

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Syria-Israel: A Syrian irrigation project which would divert water from a tributary of the Jordan River may again raise tension between Israel and Syria. According to a Syrian spokesman, the current activity is not part of a deliberate plan to deny water to the Israelis, who are engaged in large-scale diversion work of their own. Israeli sensitivities on the waters issue are such, however, that complaints and possibly even border incidents may ensue.

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